

FIRST ISSUE! 4 GREAT STORIES!

MARVEL
26th March 88

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THE REAL GHOST BUSTERS



PETER
VENKMAN



EGON
SPENGLER



RAY
STANTZ



WINSTON
ZEDDEMORE

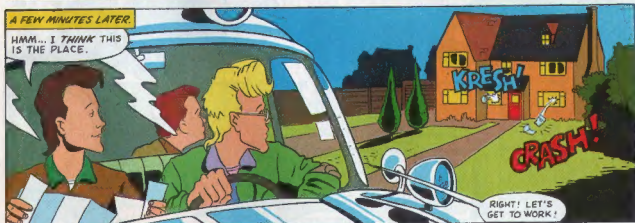


JANINE
MELNITZ



SLIMER

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS™









PETER VENKMAN

Although Doctor Peter Venkman may often seem like the most reluctant member of the Ghostbusters, he is actually one of the keenest. He's a bit of a con-man and prefers to avoid dangerous ghostbusting situations if it's at all possible. Peter has a special affection for food, and all too often this brings him into conflict with the Ghostbusters' resident spook, Slimer. However, when the chips are down, Peter stops larking around and he's the one who takes the first steps toward confronting unknown menaces or troublesome spooks. When things go wrong, and sharp wits and fast-talking are called for, Peter Venkman is your man. If you were to think of the Ghostbusters as being one body, Peter would be the mouth.



SPENGLER'S

SPIRIT GUIDE



Busting ghosts may look very easy, but to make it look easy, a Real Ghostbuster has to be good, and he can only be good if he knows his subject. 'Be aware of your opposition' – that's the first rule of busting and, in an effort both to record my own extensive knowledge of the paranormal and to try and educate the weaker-willed among us (mentioning no names, Peter), I have compiled this **Spirit Guide**: a comprehensive listing of ghostly facts, feats and features to help us know our foes.

This issue I'll begin with a basic list of the general names for ghosts and get on to specifics in later issues. Take notes – I may run a short test sometime!

GHOST, SPOOK, SHADE, PHANTOM – are general terms for any spirit of the dead, or monster, or anything that cannot be naturally explained. I quote the opinion of my colleague Winston Zeddemore: "Ghosts may have special tasks to carry out – some return to avenge a murder or to expose a villain, or to return something to its rightful owner. However it is never the appointed task of a ghost to come back and do the washing up."

PART 1

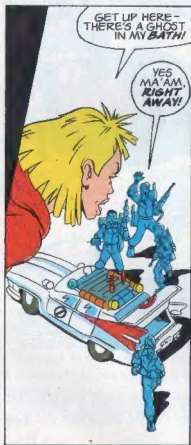
WRAITH – also known as a fetch or a doppelganger, a wraith is the ghostly double of a person that appears shortly before or after their death. Sometimes the wraith appears to the doomed person as a warning, sometimes to other people to alert them to the death, and sometimes it is the very appearance of the wraith which causes the death! Ray Stantz: "The wraith offers a pretty good early warning system to the living...but someone ought to tell *them* not to appear without warning!"

SPECTRE, APPARITION – like 'ghost', these words are used for anything without material existence, but specifically describe a ghost whose task it is to bring a warning or an omen.

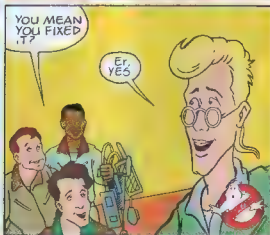
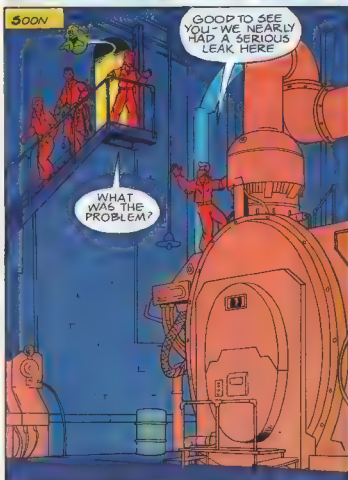
POLTERGEISTS, GREMLINS – mischievous spirits that delight in causing havoc. Poltergeists are invisible, malicious spooks who are responsible for such startling phenomena as crockery, or other household objects, flying through the air, alarm clocks appearing out of nowhere, or spatulas turning up in your sock drawer. Gremlins get their kicks from wrecking mechanical objects. They are so ugly that it's a shame they're not invisible too.

DEMONS, DEVILS – not so much ghosts as monsters, indescribably nasty beings of every shape, size and colour. They are seriously bad news, believe me. I quote my colleague Peter Venkman on this subject: "Demons? What should you do if you meet one? Well, that's a tricky one. Demons are professionally dedicated to turning up in our dimension and giving people a bad time. My technique is generally to run in the other direction. The best place to see a demon is on television."

SLIMERS – Well, I think with slimers, the question is not so much what but why. Never, EVER, let them near your fridge.







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photo

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*VENKMAN! signed by N.
STANTZ*

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WINSTON'S DIARY

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF WINSTON ZELANDINE



Story **DAN ABNETT** Art **ANDY LANNING, BRIAN WILLIAMSON** and **DAVE HARWOOD**



Tuesday 15th March 1988

A hero's work is never done.

Woken up around six in answer to a call. We'd been up all night chasing the ghosts of six cinema cowboys around a drive-in movie in Maine. Managed to get about two hours sleep. I had a dream about stalking a real nasty spook around this supermarket but when I caught up with it, my proton gun would only shoot chocolate ice cream which wasn't much use, and the monster came towards me, eating the ice cream and saying "You're in serious trouble here, Winston, you're working too hard." Pretty nasty.

Anyway, the call this time was from a woman in Yonkers who claimed there were voices coming from her fishtank. We stopped on the interstate so Ray could change a tyre on Ecto-1. We stopped on the East River Bridge so Egon could collect fungus samples from the girders. We stopped at Yankee Billy's All-Nite-Eaterie-Pies-Our-Speciality so that Peter could buy six apple turnovers and a chicken and spinach sandwich. I thought about stopping a little further on so that I could be sick, but made it to the client's house.

The client was an old lady in a dressing gown who told us she was woken up at five by voices that she traced to her fishtank. She was clearly frightened. Peter told her that she was fully protected by the Real Ghostbusters and that her ghost was history, but due to the lasting effects of the apple turnovers he was largely misunderstood by the old lady who replied that she thought it might rain later. Egon and I then took things into our own hands and pressed on to the fishtank. Low PKE readings, but we prepared for the worst: definite voice or voices, indistinct, real spooky. The fish didn't look too bothered though. Ray joined us, keen to catch what he called a fully-submerged aquatic apparition and he zapped the tank with his proton gun, which had the result of covering him in fish food and coral pieces. Egon tried lowering a ghost trap into the tank to lure the ghost out. I turned off the transistor radio sitting by the fishtank and the voices stopped.



Mid morning found us in Lower Manhattan, where a rock star complained that his apartment was being disturbed by strange noises. The apartment was newly decorated and equipped. Egon took PKE readings in all the rooms. Ray spectro-scoped the walls and balcony. Peter explained that he must carefully examine the rock star's expensive Hi-Fi and video in case the ghost was lurking there. We all heard weird noises, groans and whines. I bled the air bubbles from the newly-installed radiators and the noises stopped.



After a quick lunch we took a trip to a house in the Bronx with Poltergeist problems. There have been regular disturbances of crockery smashing in the kitchen, pictures falling off walls and the like. Egon and

Ray did a PKE survey of the rooms and drew out the architect's plans for any historical clue. Peter sampled the fridge contents, particularly the cream cheese and the fish-paste, to see if the poltergeist was food motivated. I went out for a look around and then came back in to tell the guys that the disturbances matched the spin cycles of the industrial washing machines in the Laundromat next door.



During the early evening, we were called to a mini-market in New Jersey where noises and vibrations had been heard and felt. There was a spooky silent atmosphere. We looked around a bit. Egon and Ray tried to decide whether to do a PKE survey or use the spectrosopes. We began to hear noises. Peter said he'd look for a transistor radio. Then vibrations began. Egon went to see if there was a Laundromat next door. I pointed out the green thing with rubbery arms writhing up out of the frozen veg racks and Ray said he was going to bleed the radiators. The ghost was about eight feet



high, grotesque, wrapped in a sickly vapour and had a couple of limbs too many. It howled and slithered towards us in a mass of chill-fresh peas and individual chicken portions. I caught it in a proton stream, but it nearly struggled free until Ray netted it with his own proton gun and together we brought the screaming monster down into a trap.



We got home around ten, very hungry, but Slimer had emptied our own fridge and none of us fancied the frozen food Peter had brought back from the mini-market. We got to bed at eleven, only to be woken at eleven twenty one by a call from Greenwich village. A waitress reported a twenty foot-high ghost of a mad barman running riot in a nightclub.

We went to Greenwich Village and found that she was telling the truth.

A hero's work is never done.



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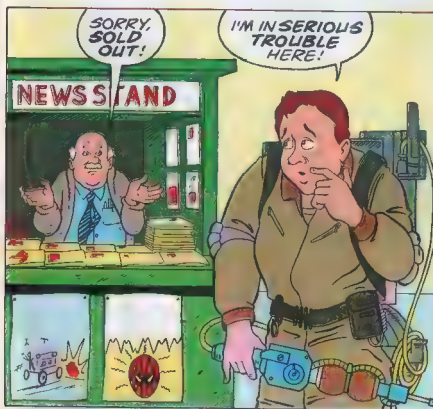


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Busting makes me feel good. Well, it makes me feel okay. It also makes me feel tired, confused, edgy and unloved. What really makes me feel good is a letter from my fans telling me what a fun, together, admirable, heroic guy I am. You could even mention the others if you like. Tell us what stories you particularly liked, ask our expert opinion on the paranormal, or pick up tips from me about how to be so cool you could keep ice-cream in my pocket for a month. So write and cheer me up as soon as possible at this address":

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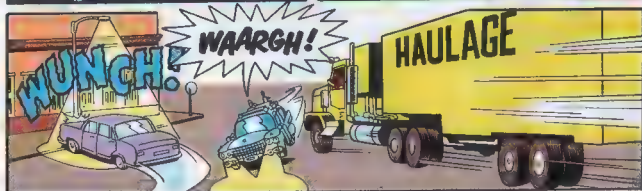
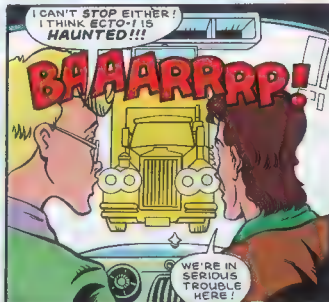
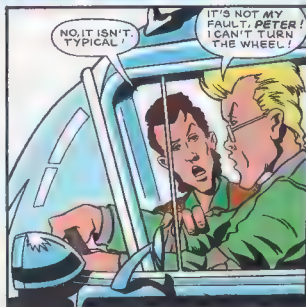
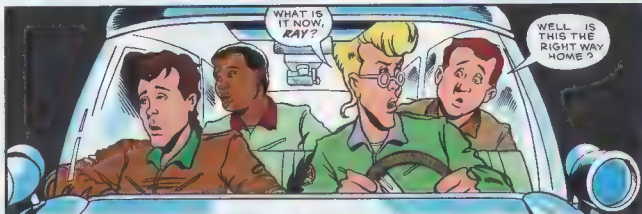
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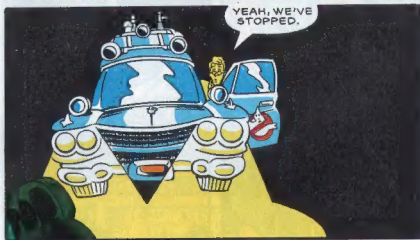
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